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# HOLYOKE the Sun

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## Police educate seniors on *scams*

By Shelby Macri  
smacri@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Day Brook Village Senior Living facility partnered with the Holyoke Police Department to host information sessions on scams targeting older adults.

The Police Departments Elder Service Officer Manny Rivera and Detective Jennifer Sattler co-hosted the information session with State Trooper DeShawn Brown also attending and listening to what Rivera and Sattler had to say. They discussed the latest scams targeting seniors that have been circulating, including covid related scams and fraud to watch out for, how to avoid identity theft, and steps people can take if they believe they're about to be scared or if they suspect they've become a victim of identity theft or fraud.

"There are a lot of crimes that are senior targeted, and there are ways to educate ourselves daily, we want to make sure everyone gets this information so they can protect themselves," Sattler said. "If you're scammed it's not because you're not educated enough or you're not tech savvy enough, it's because scammers are getting more advanced, more tech savvy, more creative in ways to commit these crimes."



Elder Service Officer Manny Rivera and State Trooper DeShawn Brown helped to put on the program to make seniors aware of scams.

She continued that due to the quarantine and pandemic everyone was home with more online interactions, so scammers went online as well.

There are common scams

involving prepaid gift cards, because once a scammer has any type of transaction number, they use it for what they want. Sattler and Rivera warned seniors about a current



Detective Jennifer Sattler describes different scams that are popular and have been reported to the Holyoke Police Department.



Elder Service Officer Manny Rivera from the Holyoke Police Department co-hosts the information session.

scam where someone makes a call to a grandparent and says their grandchild is at the hospital, he's been in an accident and can't speak, going on to say they need to pay however much

money for the hospital and that they need the child's medical information.

These scammers will use

See SCAMS, page 3

## City Council president addresses meeting scrap between candidates

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
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HOLYOKE – Council President Todd McGee addressed a recent incident that occurred between two members of the council, both of whom are currently candidates for mayor.

Ordinance Committee Chair Rebecca Lisi and Councilor-at-large Michael Sullivan sparred during a recent meeting where Sullivan criticized Lisi for accepting donations from pro-marijuana cultivators while also serving as chair of Ordinance.

Lisi defended her donors and accused Sullivan of hijacking a meeting meant for city council business and tried to use it for political gain. She called on McGee to censure Sullivan.

During the April 20 city council meeting, McGee said he was asked to discuss the issue.

He called on all councilors to observe the rules of meetings

and exhibit proper behavior.

"We have rules that ask everyone to be cordial," said McGee. "Please be respectful of each other, and if there is a conflict for that councilor, it is up to that councilor to deal with that through state ethics."

His comment spoke directly to Sullivan's accusations. McGee stated indirectly that Lisi's possible conflicts of interest are the responsibility of Lisi herself. Lisi said in a statement that there will be contributions from the marijuana industry.

Regarding these contributions to my campaign, I have been clear, since marijuana was legalized by the voters of Massachusetts, and 64% of the voters of Holyoke, that I see this industry as a new source of revenue and jobs for our city," said Lisi. "There will be more donations to my campaign for mayor from individuals in the

See SCRAP, page 11

## Mayor invites business leaders to listening session

By Shelby Macri  
smacri@turley.com

HOLYOKE – Acting Mayor Terence Murphy hosted a listening session for business leaders on Friday, April 23, where current, new, and interested businesses were encouraged to join.

Murphy said he and his team took time to find and invite old and established businesses, businesses that are only one year old, brand new businesses, and businesses looking to come in to the city.

"It was successful, about 25 business leaders came from a variety of businesses. People with restaurants, insurance agencies, automobile shops, those under renovation, and more," Murphy said. "We wanted to hear from everyone so we knew what we could do to help, to make the process easier and do better for our businesses." He continued that one of the biggest issues for

the business leaders was the licensing process.

After the discussion with multiple business leaders; including those interested in coming to town, Murphy concluded that he and his team need to make the licensing and planning process easier to understand and faster. Many business leaders mentioned that the process is long, confusing, and a maze to get through. Murphy said he wants to make the process as easy as possible so people know where to go and who to see, he brought up possibly creating a new position as a one stop window or facilitator that guides business leaders through the process and helps to contact the right town officers and connect the two so the process is easier and more efficient.

This is something that was briefly thought of during and after the meeting, Murphy knows that creating a position takes a lot of planning and the

additional guidelines and procedures created by COVID-19 will need to be thought of when creating a new position.

"I want to accelerate the process and make it as simple as possible, so there are no more frustrations with the process being too long and complicated," Murphy said "I want to encourage businesses, any kind, to come into the city, if they want to come please do."

While all businesses where invited, throughout the discussion it was suggested by Aaron Vega to have a restaurant-specific listening session.

Murphy agreed that a restaurant listening session would be helpful for the city and the businesses involved, as there have been many changes during and after the quarantine and pandemic. Guidelines are still changing for restaurants as the city moves into different phases and Murphy agreed

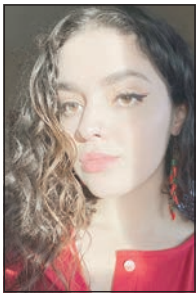
See SESSION, page 11

# HCC students named to Mass. academic all-star team

HOLYOKE – Two Holyoke Community College students are among the academic all-stars being honored this week by the Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges.

Todd Cummings of Northampton and Miren Neyra Alcántara of Holyoke were named to the 2021 Phi Theta Kappa All-Massachusetts Academic Team for PTK Community College Excellence Week, April 26 -30.

“I want to congratulate Todd and Miren on their selection to the Phi Theta Kappa All-Massachusetts Academic Team,” said HCC president Christina Royal. “Their passion and pursuit of excellence exemplifies the very best of Holyoke Community College. I’m so proud to have them represent us. Their gifts of leadership and service have made an impact within the HCC community



Miren Alcántara

and I’m confident their future contributions will be felt far beyond Massachusetts. This honor is a well-deserved.”

A celebratory ceremony is traditionally held at the Massachusetts State House in Boston to honor the highest academic achievers in the state’s 15-member community college system. However, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Phi Theta Kappa

All-Massachusetts Academic Team will be honored with virtual recognitions on social media for the second year in a row.

“Every year, we look forward to this opportunity to highlight the community colleges’ commitment to access, opportunity, and excellence,” said Tom Sannicandro, director of the Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges (MAACC). “The outstanding achievements of our students cannot be understated. We are proud of all they have

accomplished and celebrate the continued pursuit of their academic and career aspirations.”

Phi Theta Kappa is the international honor society of two-year colleges, and has recognized and encouraged scholarship among community college students for more than 100 years while promoting the academic integrity of the associate degree program. Students with grade point averages of 3.5 or higher are invited to join Phi Theta Kappa.

Cummings and Alcántara were previously inducted into Alpha Xi Omega, the HCC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa.

In addition, Cummings, a hospitality management major who lives in Northampton, is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, as well as the HCC Creative Writing Club and Student Senate. He is also a New Student Orientation leader, peer tutor, and co-founder of a new HCC men’s student support group called D.U.D.E. (Dedication, Unity, Drive for Excellence).

He will graduate in June with honors and then transfer to the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts to continue his studies in hospitality management.

Originally from Mexico, Alcántara is a Latinx Studies major who now lives in Holyoke. At HCC, she is president of the Latinx Empowerment Association (the LEA Club) and serves on the college’s Student Advisory Board. She works as a peer tutor and volunteers with several community organizations including Climate Change Theater Action, Common Share Food Co-op, and SPARK Reproductive Justice Now.

Earlier this year, Alcántara was a finalist for the 2021 Young Woman of Impact Award presented by Business West magazine. In March, she received a Newman Civic Fellowship, a national award that recognizes college leaders who demonstrate a commitment to their communities. She will graduate from HCC in 2022.

## ‘Allyship’ theme of virtual program

HOLYOKE – Bonnie Walker, director of Equity and Inclusion at Worcester Academy, will address strategies to aid individuals and groups often marginalized by society in a virtual presentation to The Communicators Club Tuesday, May 4.

The fee for the Zoom program, which will run from noon to 1:15 p.m., is \$10. To register, go to <https://contacc/3mCJjKU>.

“We must consider allyship as we lean into inclusive practices,” Walker said. “An ally actively promotes and

aspires to advance the culture of inclusion through intentional, positive and conscious efforts that benefit people as a whole. To be allies, words and action must be in sync in order to change oppressive culture. We must establish and cultivate a set of habits, as writers, editors, journalists and communicators, that we practice daily.”

That kind of commitment isn’t easy: It requires unlearning some lifelong presumptions and behaviors, and becoming acutely aware of the power imbalances lurking in our everyday interactions.

Walker’s presentation promises to provide the tools to become better allies through all forms of communication.

“Everyone has the ability to be an ally as privilege is intersectional,” Walker said. “We view allyship as a strategic mechanism used by individuals to become collaborators, accomplices, and co-conspirators who fight injustice and promote equity through supportive personal relationships and public acts of sponsorship and advocacy. If engaged

See ALLYSHIP page 3

## Local residents make Goodwin Dean’s List

EAST HARTFORD, Conn. – Goodwin University announces 1,128 students achieved Dean’s list status for the Fall 2020 session. Dean’s List inclusion requires a student to earn a minimum 3.5 GPA, the equivalent of an A- average, during a given academic session. The student must also be enrolled in a minimum of six academic credits to qualify. Wilmaury Burgos, Tania Maldonado, Keila Oquendo, and Kimberly Rosario, all of Holyoke, qualified for the Dean’s List.

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts

La **VACUNA SALVA VIDAS**



# Student achieves historic Latinx Studies degree

HOLYOKE – Alexandra Santiago will forever hold a distinction at Holyoke Community College that can never be equaled let alone surpassed.

On June 5, she will become the first HCC student in its 75-year history to graduate with an associate degree in Latinx Studies, a major introduced at the college in 2019.

“I’ve made great connections at HCC, I’ve learned new skills, and I’ve learned a lot about myself,” said the 23-year-old Santiago, who lives in Holyoke. “I like this major because it hits close to home. I learned more about my own story – how and why I ended up here.”

On May 13, Santiago will earn another distinction. She will be honored by the Mass. Dept. of Higher Education as one of the “29 Who Shine.” Each spring, the department recognizes one student from each of the 29 public colleges and universities in Massachusetts based on their academic achievements, college leadership and community service.

In previous years, the “29 Who Shine” award winners have been honored in a celebration at the State House. Last year’s event was cancelled because of COVID-19. This year, the honorees will be lauded in a virtual ceremony on YouTube beginning at 2 p.m. on Thursday, May 13.

Born and raised in Puerto Rico,

Santiago relocated to Holyoke with her family after Hurricane Maria devastated the island in Sept. 2017.

“There were a lot of months of hopelessness and uncertainty, and it’s very hard to talk about,” said Santiago. “But I’m thankful we wound up here in Massachusetts, specifically in Holyoke, where we are surrounded by Puerto Rican folks and you can see and feel the Puerto Rican culture in the names of the shops and the music that you hear, and people speaking Spanish. It’s like home.”

As a new student at HCC, Santiago started out as a communications major. But in the fall of 2019, she signed up for a class at the college that took her in an entirely different direction. That was “Teatro Nuestro” (“Our Theater”), a Learning Community course that combined Introduction to Theater and Introduction to Latinx Studies. The class explored identity through the literature, culture, history, politics, movements, and influence of people of Mexican, Central-American, South-American and Caribbean descent.

“I wanted to learn more about the history of where I come from,” Santiago said.

By the time the course concluded, she had switched her major to Latinx Studies, a new interdisciplinary program intro-



Alexandra Santiago

duced that semester.

“Despite her family’s traumatic displacement, Alex has tried to make the world a better place for everyone, especially underrepresented and minoritized communities,” said her faculty adviser Raúl Gutiérrez, chair of the Latinx Studies program, who nominated her for the award. “She is a resilient and powerful young woman.”

Since that first semester, Santiago has immersed herself in Latinx-related activities, both on the HCC campus and in the greater Holyoke community. As vice president of the Latinx Empowerment Association (LEA Club), she spearheaded a project to create a “Little Free Library” in the Holyoke Flats, one of the poorest sections of the city, with the goal of providing a wide range of books focused on culture and ethnicity to low-income children isolated during the pandemic.

Her club leadership was recognized in spring 2020 with an HCC Spotlight Award to go along with the club’s recognition for Best Volunteer Project - “Planting Literacy,” a ongoing program where club members help teach English to migrant farmworkers.

During the pandemic, she helped organize a social media campaign celebrating the Latinx community and

developed student-led virtual panel discussions in collaboration with HCC’s Black Student Alliance and Holyoke’s Wistariahurst Museum, where she works as an intern researching the archives of the late Holyoke community activist Carlos Vega.

She holds a second internship as a research assistant in the Spanish and Portuguese departments at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she is working on a project focused on bilingual language proficiency.

“The goal is to see how Spanish speakers use language in their everyday lives,” she said. In Fall 2020, through her Honors class “Pathologies of Power,” Santiago and her classmates developed a service-learning project where they created and conducted bilingual lessons for first-graders at Holyoke’s Joseph Metcalf School.

A member of the Phi Theta Kappa national honor society, Santiago is also an actor and model.

She has already been accepted for transfer into the Ethnic and Gender Studies program at Westfield State University, where she hopes to add a second major in Spanish and possibly go on to complete a master’s degree there in public administration.

“I’m thinking a lot about a career in community outreach,” she said. “Community activism really interests me.”

## Holyoke Community College Board of Trustees freezes student fees

HOLYOKE – Citing the financial hardships brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Holyoke Community College Board of Trustees voted Tuesday to freeze student fees for the upcoming academic year.

The vote was 8-0.

“This unanimous vote to freeze fees demonstrates our concern for the success of our students,” said board chair Robert Gilbert. “They depend on us, and freezing costs when they’re facing grave economic uncertainty is the right thing to do. We’re trying to do everything we can to make it easier for students to come here, stay here, and succeed here.”

The vote locks HCC’s Educational Service Fee at \$188 per credit and the Student Service Fee at \$145 per semester for fiscal year 2022, which begins July 1.

Over the past five years HCC has raised fees by about 5 percent annually. Tuition for all the community colleges in Massachusetts is set by the state. At HCC, tuition is \$24 per credit, a number that has not changed in more than 10 years.

“Holyoke Community College is fortunate to have a Board of Trustees that recognizes the financial hardships brought on by this pandemic, and understands that many of our students have been disproportionately impacted,” said HCC president Christina Royal. “The decision to freeze fees, as well as greater investments in student supports that address food insecurity, mental health, and digital equity, mean that students will have more resources and financial support to attend HCC now and in the

future.”

The Tuesday vote came at the recommendation of Narayan Sampath, vice president of Administration and Finance, and the college Audit and Finance committees.

“We solicited input from our Student Senate, the Budget Advisory Committee and the Comptroller’s office in making this recommendation,” Sampath told the board Tuesday. “The overwhelming feedback we got was that if we can afford it, it would be very helpful to our current and potential students if we do not raise fees.”

Despite the freeze, Sampath said he would still be able to present a balanced budget to the board in June.

“We have some indications of what state appropriations are going to look like, and it seems very positive, that we

might have level funding in FY ’22,” he said. “Our estimates are very conservative.”

Since the pandemic began, HCC has received more than \$3.7 million in higher education relief funds for direct student financial support. That has enabled HCC to provide \$550 block grants to every student enrolled for the fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters. Those grants, and other incentives, are likely to be available again for the fall 2021 semesters.

In addition, HCC has received more than \$7 million in stimulus money to cover additional expenses incurred during the pandemic.

“We continue to watch our budget very closely, and state and federal stimulus money has certainly helped,” Sampath said.

### ALLYSHIP, from page 2

correctly, allies hold significant power to stimulate ... positive change.

“Allyship is a continual investment of time in supporting others, holding ourselves accountable when mistakes are made, and apologizing and being prepared to rework and adapt our approaches as needs change.” For more information about The Communicators Club, visit <https://communicatorsclub.org/>.

## Wistariahurst Museum to host virtual trivia contest

HOLYOKE – From May 2 through May 5, Wistariahurst will host an online trivia contest curated by Wistariahurst intern, Alex Santiago. Come learn more about activist Carlos Vega and the Latinx history of Holyoke in this new trivia event! The contest is free to enter and fun prizes will be awarded. Registration is required at [www.wistariahurst.org](http://www.wistariahurst.org).

Wistariahurst.org.

Participants are invited to explore a PowerPoint presentation and play an online trivia game related to “The Carlos Vega Collection of Latino History in Holyoke.” The PowerPoint and the trivia game will be available both in English and in Spanish and will be posted on [www.wistariahurst.org](http://www.wistariahurst.org) from Sunday,

May 2 through Wednesday, May 5.

The trivia contest will conclude with a Zoom event on May 6 at 6:30 p.m., dedicated to discussing the trivia answers and awarding fun prizes to the winners of the Spanish and English trivia contests. A link to the trivia contest and to the award ceremony will be sent out to all who register.

### SCAM, from page 1

an emotional response and fear tactics to keep seniors on the phone, to prevent them from calling their grandchildren’s parents or the police. The scammer will say that it’s time sensitive and they need the money and information, Sattler encourages seniors to ask for a call back number and that they have to check with someone, if the scammer gets aggressive about not hanging up then it’s better to end the call.

Sattler and Rivera strongly encourage seniors to write down the number or save it in some way, because if they suspect it’s a scam, seniors should call the police department and give as much information as possible. Phone numbers

can be very helpful, but there are ways to change numbers so it can be difficult to track scammers without more information. The same goes for if you suspect you’ve met a scammer in person, like a door-to-door salesman.

“In a case of door-to-door salesmen, they all have to register with the Police Department before they can go into a neighborhood,” Rivera said. “Even though they have to register with us, doesn’t mean that you can’t call the police if you think someone is sketchy.”

An attendee mentioned that a door-to-door salesman tried to sell an alarm system and asked what kind was in the home if there was one, also at one point they tried to open the home door and enter the house. After the salesman finally left their house he continued on to

every house on the street, Rivera mentioned that if that happens to anyone they can always call the police and they can check if that person is registered or not. People can also call the federal trade commission if they feel inclined to at 1-877-382-4357.

Whether the scam is online, in person, or over the phone, people can contact their local police to give information if they feel they were scammed or came into contact with a scammer. Sattler and Rivera mentioned a few helpful tips including that people shouldn’t have to pay if they win the lottery or a sweepstake, you should never give your personal information as scammers only need a transaction number, if they want you to purchase gift cards to buy something online or that they’ll send you money

to put on a gift card; don’t do it. The Holyoke Police Department lists known scams on their website at <https://www.holyokepd.org>, their Facebook page, and their Instagram page to ensure that the community is aware.

In addition to this scam informational session, Day Brook Village will be holding other community education programs in the future. They will be offering a program on accessing Veterans Benefits on Wednesday, May 26 and Thursday, May 27. There will be socially distanced seats in a heated tent outdoors, lunch will be served in individual containers and those interested in attending should RSVP at <https://www.daybrookvillage.org> or call the Marketing Director Lynn Landry at 413-561-7958 by Thursday, May 20.

Poetry Corner

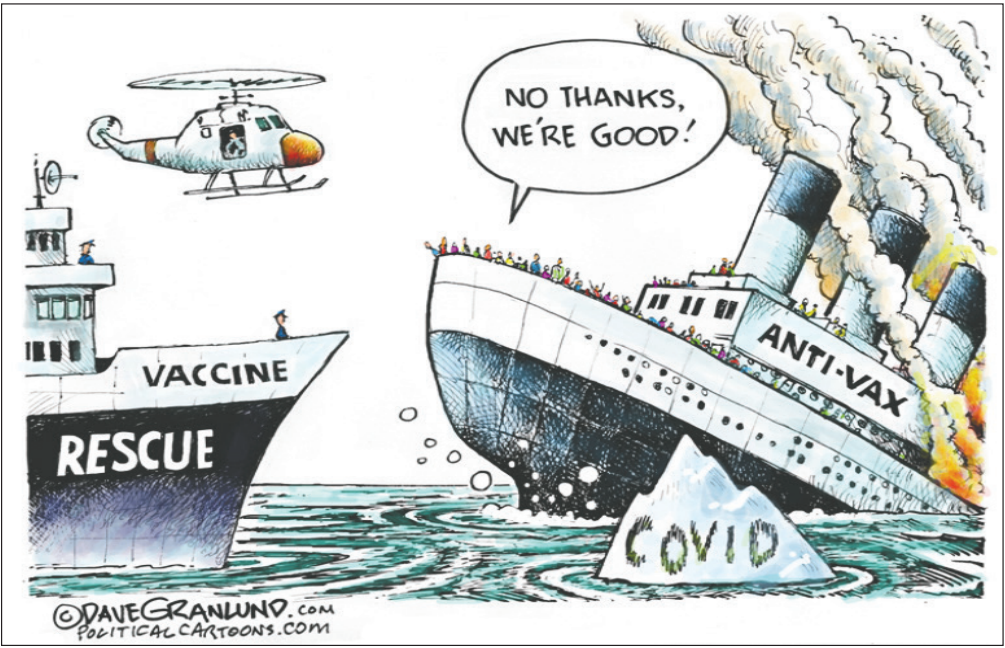
Pencil Picasso

by Thomas J. Kennedy

How would you like to be a pencil  
Always being pressed down,  
Ending up with a headache;  
Getting a haircut more often  
than you need one.

And being put for a time  
In a dark foreign place.

Sometimes I even get broken,  
But I mend well —  
And I do create beautiful images.



Guest Column

How to plant a bare root apple tree

Sometimes I wish I had bought for the land and not for the house. In my dreams, I'd have a field big enough to grow all the pumpkins a girl could want, and a sunny slope to have an amazing orchard of heirloom apple trees. Maybe someday, but for now I squeeze in apple trees here and apple trees there. One outside the chicken coop. Three in the perennial border. And as of this past weekend two more near the clothesline. Read on to see how I did it.

Planting a tree is not like planting a bush or a perennial plant. Should you make a mistake about the placement of those you can easily dig them up and move them. I think my parents moved their blueberries twice without injury to the bushes. Trees are a whole different story; you want to do it right the first time.

I was home all day on Friday, scoping out the yard. You think you know where the sunny spots are; fruit trees want at least six hours of full sun, until you document it by the hour. Overhead trees are not leafed out yet, so that has to be taken into consideration, but even so, one area I assumed to be sunny was actually in shade most of the day; another area was just the opposite. Voilà! It is a perfect spot for the fruit trees!

I then began to fret that the soil there would not be good enough, and without any finished compost on hand to amend the hole, my planting would be delayed even further. Lucky for me adding lots of peat or compost to the planting hole is old advice. These days we want the roots to extend far beyond the original hole. If the soil is too good there

the roots will never want to leave. This way, over the long-term, they will go looking for nourishment and anchor themselves into the surrounding soil.

I began the task of digging a three foot wide by two foot deep hole. I shook the sod and placed it in a clump for the compost pile. The topsoil was put on plastic in one spot and the subsoil in another. Large rocks were discarded. Happily, I did have some rock phosphate left on hand from last fall. I sprinkled one cup, and found out later that one pound was the recommendation! in the planting hole and scratched it in. It will aid in root development. I also took my shovel and loosed the "walls" of the hole to make it easier for the roots to penetrate as they spread.

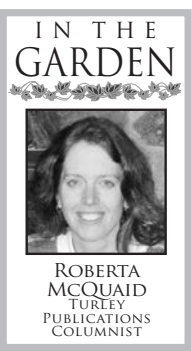
Most grafted trees should be planted with the graft union two to three inches above the soil line. I positioned the bare-root tree in the hole and made a quick measurement with a stick across the hole. The graft union was too deep, so I mounded a little soil under the roots. That adjustment brought the tree to the correct depth. I dumped some water in next to collapse air pockets and then shoveled in the topsoil. Experts recommend that you backfill the hole with topsoil first, it is more friable, and then place the subsoil elsewhere in the hole, tamping down as you go, with your feet.

I made a basin around the tree after I was finished, a slightly sunken area to catch water. Eventually I will add a layer of compost on top and apply some mulch in the form of shredded bark or hay to create a happy environment for all of the "feeder" roots. If

Mother Nature doesn't provide at least an inch of rain per week I will trickle water slowly into the basin twice a week to help establish the tree.

Although a few years will pass before I pick those first fruits, hopefully proper planting will ensure years of fruitfulness.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



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A Quote

OF NOTE

"Life is  
a mountain.  
Your goal  
is to  
find your path,  
not to  
reach the top."

Maxime Lagace

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed.

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to [thesun@turley.com](mailto:thesun@turley.com). Mailed letters can be sent to The Sun, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

Can I claim my Social Security now, then switch to spouse benefits?

By Russell Gloor

SOCIAL  
SECURITY  
MATTERS

Dear Rusty: I am 62 and have been a homemaker for much of my adult life. I have a small Social Security account from working years ago. My husband is older, has been the major wage earner and will have a good amount in Social Security when he claims. I have been told that I should claim my Social Security now. It's a small amount, about \$475 per month if I claim it now, and \$550 after I'm age 66, so it's not a life changing difference. But if I claim mine now, when my husband reaches his full retirement age can I switch to claiming spousal benefits on his account? I understand I would no longer get mine, but I'm pretty sure my benefit from him will be a much larger amount. Signed: Inquiring Homemaker

Dear Inquiring Homemaker: The simple answer to your question is: yes, if you claim your own small benefit now you can later switch to a higher spouse benefit from your husband when he claims his Social Security. But there are always consequences for claiming Social Security benefits early. The maximum spousal benefit you can get

from your husband is 50% of the benefit amount he is entitled to at his own full retirement age. But you only get that full 50% if you delay claiming your own Social Security until you reach your own FRA.

That doesn't mean you can't claim your own reduced benefit early, but it means that when you later get your spousal benefit, it will be less than 50% of your husband's FRA benefit amount. And here's why: Your spouse benefit, when you receive it, will consist of your own earned benefit plus a spousal boost to bring you to your spousal entitlement. Your spousal boost will be the difference between your FRA benefit amount (regardless of when you claim) and half of your husband's FRA benefit amount, and it will be reduced if you haven't yet reached your FRA when your husband claims. That reduced spousal boost will be added to your own actual benefit (reduced if you claim at 62), which will yield a spouse benefit less than 50% of your husband's FRA benefit. Said another way, when your husband claims at his FRA, you'll get a reduced spousal boost added to your own already reduced age 62 Social Security retirement benefit. I can't put this into dollar terms for you without

knowing your husband's FRA benefit amount.

FYI, if your age 62 benefit amount is \$475 then your personal benefit amount at your FRA should be about \$670. Essentially, the longer you wait to claim your own Social Security, the more your spousal benefit will be because the spousal boost will be added to the benefit you're already receiving. Your spousal benefit reaches maximum (which is 50% of your husband's FRA amount) at your FRA but remember that your husband must be collecting his Social Security for you to claim a spouse benefit.

So, here's the bottom line: you can claim your own Social Security at age 62, but the benefit amount you get will be reduced by 29%. If your husband claims at his FRA, you will get a spousal boost at that time, but the amount of the spousal boost will be reduced because you will not have reached your FRA at that time. The only way you will get the full 50% of your husband's FRA benefit amount is by waiting until your own FRA to claim Social Security. However, since your spousal benefit will be the highest amount available to you, waiting and claiming yours at the same time your husband claims his,

See SECURITY, page 9

# Candidate lauds call for assessment of police department

HOLYOKE – Mayoral candidate Rebecca Lisi said Thursday the city is already benefiting from her proposal for an independent assessment of the Holyoke Police Department.

The police chief, city councilors and a criminal justice professor brainstormed Wednesday about an order for such an assessment filed by Lisi, who is a city councilor at-large, in a Zoom meeting of the City Council Public Safety Committee.

“This is exactly why I have the reputation for leadership and innovation that I do,” said Lisi, chairwoman of the City Council Ordinance Committee.

“I don’t shy away from tough issues. I come up with ideas. I bring the community together in dialogue around these ideas. And together, we move through these tough issues, get things done and make progress.”

Discussion will continue on Lisi’s order in future Public Safety Committee meetings.

This is Lisi’s order: that in an effort to obtain neutral, fact-based data and statistics, the city contract an independent assessment of Holyoke Police Department’s structure, policies and practices.

Holyoke Police Chief Manuel Febo and Nicole J. Hendricks, professor and chairwoman of the Department of Criminal Justice at Holyoke Community College, participated in the discussion.

Febo said he agreed more could be done to bring police and the public together.

A Holyoke native, Febo said his policy has been that “we’re an open book here” in terms of how policing is done in the city.

“We provide services to the community and we’re proud of the work that we do. And I think we do a great job. We’re a very diverse department,” he said.

Febo said the department has long done community outreach. This includes working with the Hampden County Sheriff’s Department on its safe neighborhoods project, helping people get mental health services in conjunction with Behavioral Health Network (BHN), having 80 percent of officers get 40 hours of crisis intervention training, working on sports and other programs with the Holyoke Boys and Girls Club and partnering with the University of Massachusetts on grants, he said.

“I think we’re ahead of the curve on most police departments, so I welcome any, like I said before, any outside agency that wants to look at our structure, our practices, our policies. I’m proud of what we do.”

The Holyoke Police Department has received few complaints in relation to other police forces of its size, he said.

Later in the meeting, Febo said, “I think if I could be critical of myself here at the Police Department, I think the one

thing that I’m understanding tonight is that I could probably be doing a much better job getting the information out to the public and the community and the council. I think you would be very impressed with what we’re doing and it’s just not out there.”

Febo, a 26-year veteran, will retire July 31 and Capt. David Pratt, who has been with the department for 28 years, will take over as chief. That’s under a decision announced in December by former Mayor Alex B. Morse.

During the committee meeting, Lisi said that with the baton being passed to a new chief from the current one, this is a good time to determine how police can best serve the community.

“We also see that policing is changing,” Lisi said. “I think that we should know as citizens and policy makers that, really, the policies and practices and culture that’s guiding the police force (are) really serving the community.”

“So I really think it’s an opportunity here to take a look, understand what’s happening, get the data, get the evidence, and figure out where our strengths are, where we could use some work in updating and really make sure that as we continue to move forward into the future that our Police Department is servicing the community to the best and most efficient sense possible.”

Lisi noted that Morse appointed a task force of people in the city to discuss

police and community relations last year. That came after protests erupted nationwide following the murder of George Floyd, a black man, during an arrest in Minneapolis, Minnesota May 20.

A jury Tuesday convicted Derek Chauvin, 45, a former Minneapolis police officer, of second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter in Floyd’s death.

Lisi said the task force that Morse formed never really gained traction but she invited members of that panel to participate in the Public Safety Committee meeting.

Among Lisi’s questions during the committee meeting were what kinds of training do Holyoke police currently receive, is the training necessary and is the training being used in daily policing. And the community has similar questions, she said.

“I think transparency is like the big issue driving this at this point,” Lisi said.



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# Reading program honored with literacy award

HOLYOKE – Massachusetts Center for the Book (MCB) has announced that Raising A Reader Massachusetts is the recipient of the 2021 Library of Congress/Massachusetts State Literacy Award. Funding for the state literacy awards program, a growing component of the Library of Congress Literacy Awards, is made possible through the generous support of David M. Rubenstein, co-founder of The Carlyle Group and a major benefactor of our nation's library.

Working in Greater Boston and 10 Gateway Cities, Raising A Reader Massachusetts (RAR-MA) has used its intervention program to provide informative, safe, and inclusive spaces for families and their young children to learn dialogic reading methods -- the foundation of RAR-MA's program. Working with children between birth and age six, RAR-MA and its partners provide tools, tips, and resources to families from diverse backgrounds.

In the past year, RAR-MA has successfully transitioned from in-person workshops and events to a virtual environment in which online resources, virtual story times, and a new family resource portal -- found at [www.raisingareaderma.org/families](http://www.raisingareaderma.org/families) -- deliver programs to families.

"Throughout our 15-year history, Raising A Reader Massachusetts has

advocated for equal access to literacy learning opportunities for young children," said Christine Ward, Executive Director of RAR-MA. "Our families live within some of Massachusetts' most high-need communities, and the coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated the struggles that many of our families deal with each day. Our team has been resilient, working throughout the last 12 months to ensure that our families and partners continue to receive the support they need to keep children learning. We are honored to receive the 2021 Library of Congress/Massachusetts State Literacy Award in recognition of our mission to eliminate the literacy opportunity gap in the lives of children in Massachusetts."

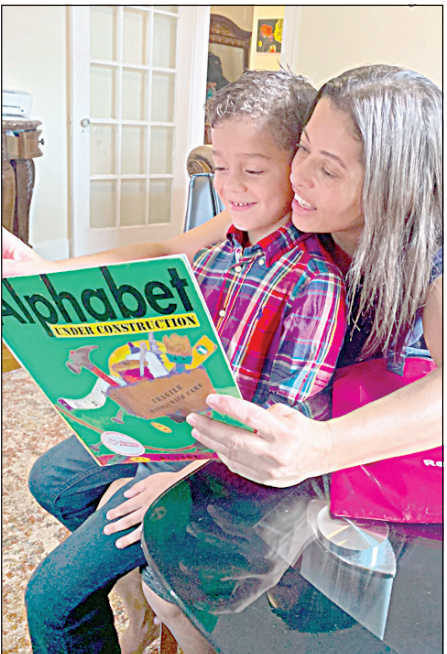
MCB Executive Director Sharon Shaloo noted that the mission of RAR-MA complements the outreach fostered in public libraries: "We admire the work and also the resilience of Raising A Reader in a year that has presented numerous challenges, and we look forward to working with them on future projects in Massachusetts' Gateway Cities."

A virtual celebration of the award was held on April 16, with Representative Natalie M. Higgins of Leominster, a House Co-Chair of the Library Legislative Caucus, and Krista McLeod, Director of Nevins Memorial

Library (Methuen) and Clerk of Board, Massachusetts Center for the Book, making the presentation to Christine Ward of Raising A Reader Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts Center for the Book, chartered as the Commonwealth Affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, is a public-private partnership charged with develop-

ing, supporting and promoting cultural programming that advances the cause of books and reading and enhances the outreach potential of Massachusetts public libraries. For more information, contact [info@massbook.org](mailto:info@massbook.org) or visit <http://mass-book.org/>.



Recently, the 2021 Library of Congress State Literacy Award was made to Raising A Reader Massachusetts.



Holyoke has a big presence in the program with eight partners in the city.

Submitted photos

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# SPORTS

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## Knights spoil Senior Day for Mustangs

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

MONSON – For the second time in a span of 10 days, the Holyoke girls varsity basketball team traveled to Monson High School and defeated the Lady Mustangs by less than ten points.

With the score tied in the final seconds of regulation, Holyoke sophomore Bianca Ortiz-Cordero stole a pass and scored a fast-break lay-up giving the Purple Knights an exciting 61-59 victory at Michael J. Kane Gymnasium, last Tuesday.

“I couldn’t have made the steal and the lay-up on the last play of the game without the help of my teammates,” said Ortiz-Cordero, who finished the game with a team-high 27 points. “It was just a great feeling after I made that basket.”

The Purple Knights (13-1), who led by as many as 16 points during the second half, lost their first game of the Fall II season at Hampshire Regional twenty-four hours earlier.

“I’m really pleased with the composure that my team showed at the end of today’s game,” said Holyoke head coach Andrea Enright. “It was a back-and-forth type of a game. Bianca just stepped up for us at the end. She’s known as a shooter, but I think we’re at our best when she drives to the basket.”

Ortiz-Cordero made four 3-pointers in the contest.

It was a disappointing loss for the Lady Mustangs (6-3), especially for the three seniors, who were looking to win their final home game.

“I’ve been a member of the



Yamaya Perez drives for the hoop.

Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

varsity basketball team since I was a freshman and I have a lot of wonderful memories playing basketball games in this gym,” said Monson senior Sydnie DeVries. “I’m kind of sad right now because this was my final home game of my high school career. We really wanted to win this game.”

DeVries, who’ll be playing college basketball at Southern New Hampshire University,

scored 13 points in her final home game. A couple of days later, she scored a career-high 31 points in a 63-44 win at Sabis in the season finale. DeVries finished her outstanding high school basketball career as the team’s second all-time leading scorer.

“I’m really looking forward to watching Syd play college basketball during the next four



Bianca Ortiz Cordero dribbles past a Monson guard.

years,” said Monson head coach Tim Pascale. “She’s one of the hardest working players that I’ve coached here.”

DeVries, along with classmates Kylie Medeiros and Madison Bonneau were honored during a postgame ceremony.

“I’ve been coaching the three seniors since they played for a Suburban League team

when they were in the seventh grade,” Pascale said. “I’m going to miss them not only as basketball players, but they’re also great kids. It was a joy to come to practice every day this season and it was a lot of fun coaching them.”

Medeiros, who’s a first-year member of the varsity

See BASKETBALL, page 8

## ‘Pole’ takes first race in Granite Series



Joey “Pole” Polewarczyk Jr. took the win in the first race of the year at Stafford Motor Speedway.  
Submitted photo

STAFFORD, Conn. – It didn’t take long for Joey “Pole” Polewarczyk Jr. to figure out the half-mile of Stafford Motor Speedway on Saturday, April 24. The defending Granite State Pro Stock Series champion took the lead on lap 15 from Eddie MacDonald and never looked back en route to the triumph in the Casagrande Builders 75.

Pole crossed the line over six seconds ahead of hometown favorite Cory Casagrande, with seven-time Seekonk Speedway champion David Darling finishing third.

“What an awesome track, thanks to Stafford for having the Granite State Pro Stock Series,” Pole said. “That’s one of the best cars I’ve ever had. It really came in during the race. I

See RACING, page 8

## Spring sports to begin after long wait

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – On June 15, 2019, Katelyn Thompson and the Minnechaug Regional High School softball team defeated Pittsfield High School to win the Western Massachusetts Division 1 championship.

Since around that time, spring sports, baseball, softball, lacrosse, tennis, and boys volleyball have not been played.

The COVID-19 pandemic stopped high school sports in their track in early March 2020. Several delays were made to the

spring sports season until an unprecedented cancellation took place when in-person school was cancelled for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. It robbed Class of 2020 players in all spring sports their final curtain call, and their final opportunity to fight for sectional, individual, and state success in their respective sports.

Next week, beginning on May 5, Granby lacrosse will face Monson with the Mustangs hosting the boys and the Rams hosting the girls. That action will be among the first spring sports

See SPORTS, page 8

Monadnock Speedway opener set for this weekend

WINCHESTER, N.H. – On Saturday, May 1, Monadnock Speedway will be back in action for the 2021 Season. Although there will be some COVID19 restriction that will remain in place for capacity and social distancing, the speedway has added on 1400 more seats to accommodate the restrictions. The season opener will be a two-

day event this year with the Tri Track Modified Series as the headline on Saturday (May 1) and Granite State Pro Stock Series on (May 2). There will be a practice session held on Friday (April 30) from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. The divisions scheduled on Saturday are 100 Lap Tri Track Modified Series, NHSTRA Modifieds,

Pro Truck Series, Mini Stocks, Pure Stocks, Young Guns and Classic Lites. Race time is at 5 p.m. The Sunday line up will include 100 Lap Granite State Pro Stock Series, NHSTRA Modifieds, Late Models, Street Stocks, NELCAR Legends and Enduros. Race Time is at 2 p.m. Advanced General Admission

Tickets and Reserved Camping Sites area available for purchase at [www.monadnockspeedway.com](http://www.monadnockspeedway.com). Pit Admission tickets will not be available in advanced and are available for purchase on the day of the event. For more information, go to the speedway’s website at [monadnock-speedway.com](http://monadnock-speedway.com) or call 603-239-4067.

RACING, from page 7

loved that there were almost no cautions, and we were able to run our own pace. It feels really good to come down here to Stafford and win.” While Pole pulled away from a 24-car field, only a few cautions slowed the action. Early, it was a caution for a stopped Rick Duzlak in turn one, then an accident collected both Mike O’Sullivan and Craig Bushey on lap 11. From there, the caution flag was never used again. Pole drove by McDonald and left the rest of the field behind him, with DJ Shaw, Casagrande and Darling battling for second over the final 30 laps. Casagrande got by Shaw for second on lap 56, with Darling on his bumper — then the two battled for the runner-up spot for the final 20 laps. Casagrande would beat Darling by a small margin at the finish. MacDonald finished fourth, while former series champion Derek Griffith rallied from an early pit stop to round out the top-five. Devin O’Connell was sixth, followed by Shaw, Gabe Brown, Derek Gluchacki and Angelo Belsito. Shaw, Griffith and Casagrande won heat races earlier in the day, while Shaw also set fast time in time trials.

The Granite State Pro Stock Series returns to the track on Sunday, May 2 at Monadnock Speedway. For more information on the Granite State Pro Stock Series, visit [gspss.net](http://gspss.net) and follow the series on social media.

- THE FINISH:**  
1. Joey Pole  
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3. David Darling  
4. Eddie MacDonald  
5. Derek Griffith  
6. Devin O’Connell  
7. DJ Shaw  
8. Gabe Brown  
9. Derek Gluchacki  
10. Angelo Belsito  
11. Mike Mitchell  
12. Bryan Kruzcek  
13. Mike Scorzelli  
14. Kevin Casper  
15. Josh King  
16. Tyler Tomassi  
17. Alexander Pearl  
18. Luke Hinkley  
19. Casey Call  
20. Bobby Pelland III  
21. Adam Gray  
22. Craig Bushey  
23. Mike O’Sullivan  
24. Rick Duzlak

SPORTS, from page 7

to take place in nearly 23 months. In June, spring sports will participate in sectional tournaments for the first time since March 2020 when the winter sports held their tournaments. Tournaments were not held for the first three seasons of this school year. The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association sponsored a “Fall 2” season that wrapped up just last week with football action leading the way along with some basketball, indoor track, and girls volleyball among teams that were unable to participate in the first two seasons of the year. Cheerleaders also had the opportunity to participate in the Fall 2 season. Practices for spring sports began earlier this week and it is a very quick turnaround to get games underway, with several starting on Wednesday, May 5. This only allows for about seven or eight practice sessions before that date. But because of unpredictable weather coming out of the winter, spring sports are used to a condensed schedule, especially baseball and softball, which often need more ideal

weather in order to play games as soggy and muddy fields can make for more dangerous play. Sports are scheduled to run from May 5 through the middle of June. Like the previous seasons this school year, most of the sports will play about 12 games. Seasons in the fall and winter ran for about 10 to 12 games, but spring sports often lend themselves to more games under a condensed schedule. Most teams are scheduled for 12 games with some playing more depending individual circumstances. The more important part is that in addition to a 12-game schedule, teams who qualify will get the chance to participate in tournaments, which will result in more games. Athletes are still being required to wear masks to participate in sports, though it is possible restrictions could ease as the spring season progresses based on the vaccination effort and currently dropping case numbers. Surrounding states like Connecticut and New Hampshire have also started easing restrictions as well. Most schedules for the spring have been posted to the MIAA website as well as some school websites.

BASKETBALL, from page 7

team, made her first career varsity start against Holyoke and scored two points. She’ll be attending Westfield State University in the fall. Bonneau, who’s a three-year member of the varsity team, will be attending Norwich University, which is the oldest private military college in the United States, located in Northfield, Vermont. “I’ve always dreamed about becoming a nurse and I also want to serve my country,” Bonneau said. “I think what we have here in this country is a privilege and I just want to keep it that way. After I graduate from Norwich, I’ll be a second lieutenant in the Army.” Bonneau, who’s planning on playing soccer in college, made a 3-pointer less than a minute into the opening quarter, which were her only points. She also did a very good job of defending Ortiz-Cordero during the second half. Freshman Sierra Martinson also guarded Ortiz-Cordero in the second half. “We made a defensive adjustment in the second half,” Pascale said. “We had two players guarding Ortiz-Cordero,

who’s a heck of a basketball player. We held Holyoke to only 21 points in the second half. It was a great contest against a Division 1 team. I’m very proud of the effort by my players.” Junior Yamaya Perez, who also made five shots from beyond the arc for the Purple Knights, finished with 22 points. The two seniors listed on the Holyoke varsity roster are Taryn Ryan (5 points) and Nathaliemalee Vazquez (2 points), who had been sidelined most of the season with an injury. The Lady Mustangs leading scorer was eighth grader Olivia Charrazan, who scored 15 of her 27 points in the second half. “Olivia is an awesome basketball player,” Pascale said. “Sometimes you forget that she’s only in the eighth grade. The sky is the limit for her and I’m looking forward to coaching her during the next four years.” Charrazan scored 12 points during the first eight minutes, which helped her team build a 19-14 lead. Holyoke controlled things offensively during the second stanza, as they out-

scored Monson, 26-9. They made a total of five 3-pointers in that quarter. The Purple Knights, who held a 40-28 halftime advantage, put-together an 8-2 run during the first three minutes of the third quarter. A 3-pointer by junior Kleriz Matos (3 points) increasing Holyoke’s lead to 48-32. The Lady Mustangs began their comeback at that point, as they closed out the third quarter with a 13-7 run. Charrazan scored seven of those

points, while eighth grader Tennessee Murphy (8 points) made four straight foul shots. Then field goals by Charrazan, Murphy, and DeVries reduced Monson’s deficit to 55-51 with six minutes remaining in regulation. With 2:22 remaining in regulation, a DeVries put-back hoop made the score 59-57 Holyoke. She then made a pair of free throws tying the score for the first time since the second quarter.



Taryn Ryan attempts to block a shot. Photos by David Henry [www.sweetdogphotos.com](http://www.sweetdogphotos.com)



Anna Alicea tries to stop the ball.

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The right is hereby reserved to reject any or all proposals, or to accept any proposal that in the opinion of the Manager may be in the best interest of the City of Holyoke.

Please mark sealed envelopes, **"Bid for Specialty Construction and Facilities Maintenance Contract"** and address them to:

**James M. Lavelle, Manager**  
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.  
99 Suffolk St.  
Holyoke, MA 01040

04/30/2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD21C0068CA  
In the matter of:  
Iris Nereida Rosa  
aka Iris Nereida Ortiz Perez  
CITATION ON PETITION TO  
CHANGE NAME**

**A Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Iris Nereida Rosa, aka: Iris Nereida Ortiz Perez** of Holyoke, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Iris Neredia Ortiz**  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/21/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: April 28, 2021  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
04/30/2021

**Notice of Public Hearing**  
The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 6:30 pm** to hear a Special Permit Application for North Country Production, LLC for a marijuana manufacturing enterprise at 12 Crescent St (030-01-001) & (030-04-003).

**Meeting will take place remotely and can be accessed via www.zoom.us**  
**Meeting ID:** 891 2469 2209  
**Meeting Passcode:** 465406  
**or by call in at:** 1 (646)558-8656 with the same Meeting ID and Passcode.

Written public comment can be submitted to publiccomment@holyoke.org.

For information on these applications please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at anderson-burgosj@holyoke.org or by phone at (413) 322-5525

Ordinance chair  
Rebecca Lisi  
04/23, 04/30/2021

LEGAL NOTICE  
CITY OF HOLYOKE  
GAS & ELECTRIC  
DEPARTMENT  
LANDSCAPING SERVICES  
ANNUAL CONTRACT

Sealed bids for the above contract will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. until **2:00 p.m., May 28, 2021** at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time proposals will be publicly opened and read.

**Bid Deposit:**  
An original Bid Deposit in the amount of \$20,000 must accompany all bids and may be in the form of a certified, treasurer's or cashier's check payable to HG&E from a responsible bank or trust company; cash; or a bid bond from a licensed surety payable to HG&E.

**Prevailing Wage Rates:**  
Rates, which are to apply to the work, are set by the MA Dept. of Labor & Industries.

Additional information may be obtained from:  
Chi Wong  
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.  
99 Suffolk St.  
Holyoke, MA 01040  
(413) 536-9308  
cwong@hged.com

The right is hereby reserved to reject any or all proposals, or to accept any proposal that in the opinion of the Manager may be in the best interest of the City of Holyoke.

Please mark sealed envelopes, **"Bid for Landscaping Services Annual Contract"** and address them to:

**James M. Lavelle, Manager**  
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.  
99 Suffolk St.  
Holyoke, MA 01040

04/30/2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No. HD21D0207DR  
Adderlin Santana Hernandez vs.  
Yuliana E De Jesus De Santana  
DIVORCE SUMMONS  
BY PUBLICATION  
AND MAILING  
To the Defendant:**

The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown.

The Complaint is on file at the Court.

An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon:

**Michael J Grilli, Esq.**  
**Law Offices of Michael J. Grilli**  
**1 Monarch Place Suite 1360**  
**Springfield, MA 01144**

your answer, if any, on or before **07/13/2021**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: April 22, 2021

**Rosemary A Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
04/30/2021

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
HAMPDEN, Div.  
Probate & Family Court Dept.

**HD21E0009PP1**  
To Jennifer Garbiel, Trustee of the Jennifer J Garbiel Investment Trust, as tenant in common, of Holyoke, Massachusetts, in the County of Hampden, and to all other persons interested.

A petition has been presented to said Court by Jodine Powers, of Holyoke, in the County of Hampden, representing that they hold as tenants in common an undivided part or share of land lying in Holyoke, in the County of Hampden, setting forth that she desires that all of said land may be sold at private sale or public auction for not less than Three Hundred Twenty-five Thousand (\$325,000.00) Dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Springfield before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the **7th day of June, 2021**, the return day of this citation.

Witness, BARBARA M. HYLAND, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this fifth day of April, 2021.

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**,  
Register of Probate & Family Court  
04/16, 04/23, 04/30/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No. HD21D0175DR  
Denissa I Escalera vs. Fidel S Juarez  
DIVORCE SUMMONS  
BY PUBLICATION  
AND MAILING

To the Defendant:  
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown.

The Complaint is on file at the Court.

An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon:

**Denissa I Escalera**  
**6 Queensbury Drive**  
**Springfield, MA 01129**

your answer, if any, on or before **07/13/2021**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: April 15, 2021

**Rosemary Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
04/30/2021

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a Community Outreach

Meeting for a proposed Marijuana Establishment Medical Treatment Center & Recreational Dispensary, Cultivation & Manufacturing is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 18, 2021 from 6:30 p.m.,** at the 15 Main Street, Holyoke, MA 01040. The proposed Marijuana Establishment is anticipated to be located at 15 Main Street, Holyoke, and is potentially seeking licenses for cultivation. Community members and the public are welcome. There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions and receive answers from representatives of the proposed Marijuana Establishment.

The Virtual Community Outreach Meeting via Zoom can be joined by visiting the following URL. Participants may choose to attend the meeting either online or by telephone. The virtual Community outreach Meeting via Zoom is available using

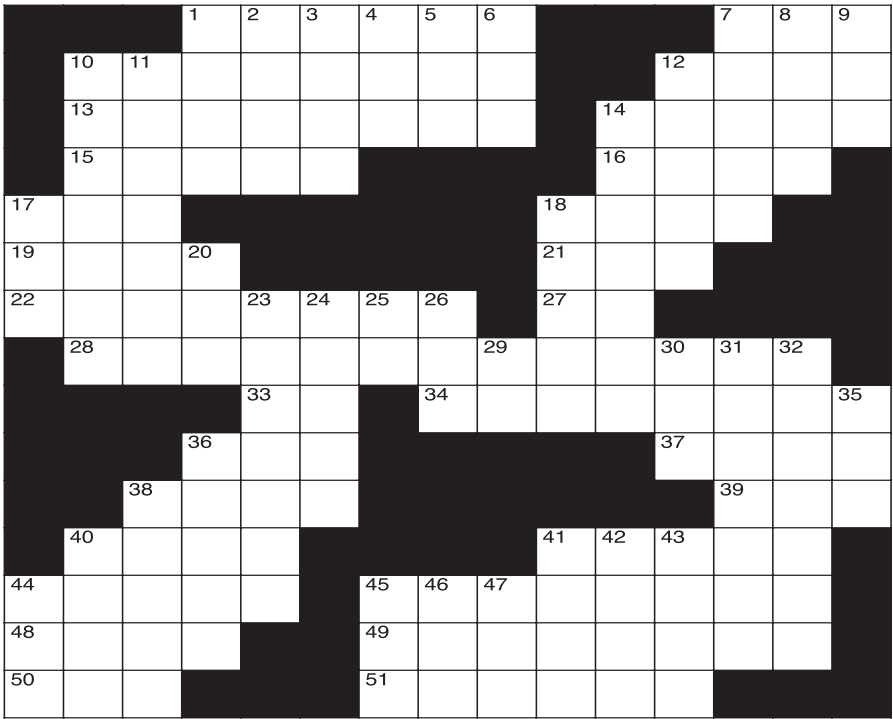
the following link:  
**Join Zoom Meeting**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82074310435>  
**Meeting ID:** 820 7431 0435  
**Passcode:**  
**One tap mobile**  
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+13017158592,,820743104 35# US (Washington DC)  
**Dial by your location**  
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+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)  
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
**Meeting ID:** 820 7431 0435  
**Find your local number:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kbpB3IvFLL>  
04/30/2021

PUBLIC NOTICES  
ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto:notices@turley.com)
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

*Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.*

[visit www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)



- |                                    |                               |                                      |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>CLUES ACROSS</b>                |                               |                                      |                                     |
| 1. Switches                        | disgust                       | 3. The ___ of March                  | 26. When you hope to get there      |
| 7. Legal financial term (abbr.)    | 34. The government has many   | 4. Healthy                           | 29. Top lawyer                      |
| 10. Sweeties                       | 36. Small constellation       | 5. Where golfers begin               | 30. Fiddler crabs                   |
| 12. Competition                    | 37. Northern Indian city      | 6. Soviet Socialist Republic (abbr.) | 31. Intolerant                      |
| 13. Measures electrical resistance | 38. The best pitchers         | 7. Of the cheek                      | 32. Persons that cause extreme fear |
| 14. Psychotherapy researcher       | 39. Naturally occurring solid | 8. Injury reminder                   | 35. Car mechanics group             |
| 15. Causes injury to               | 40. Apple computers           | 9. Statesman Franklin                | 36. Capital of Ghana                |
| 16. Open                           | 41. Portuguese city           | 10. For an unknown reason            | 38. Famed ballplayer Hank           |
| 17. Polish peninsula               | 44. Ancient Greek war dance   | 11. Brain parts                      | 40. Emphasizes insignificance       |
| 18. Hebrew calendar month          | 45. More reliable             | 12. Islamic calendar month           | 41. Light-colored                   |
| 19. Whale ship captain             | 48. Sailboat                  | 14. Avenue where ad men work         | 42. Distinctive smell               |
| 21. Children's accessory           | 49. Newspapers                | 17. Possesses                        | 43. Muckraking journalist Jacob     |
| 22. Unknown point                  | 50. Frequently flooded area   | 18. Accept                           | 44. Sunscreen rating                |
| 27. Exists                         | 51. They dig for coal         | 20. Stake                            | 45. Short-term memory               |
| 28. Extremely confident            |                               | 23. Former British PM May            | 46. Japanese delicacy               |
| 33. Expression of                  |                               | 24. US battleships circa 1939        | 47. One point north of due east     |
|                                    | <b>CLUES DOWN</b>             | 25. Greek alphabet letter            |                                     |
|                                    | 1. Partial                    |                                      |                                     |
|                                    | 2. "Mad Men" leading man      |                                      |                                     |

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 6

SECURITY, from page 4

would also be a prudent strategy to lessen the "penalty" for claiming your benefits early.

One final caution: Any time Social Security benefits are claimed early (before FRA) there is an "earnings test" which limits how much can be earned from working before Social Security takes back some benefits. Please keep this in mind if you should decide to go back to work at any time before you reach your full retirement age.

This article is intended for informa-

tion purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website ([amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email [ssadvisior@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisior@amacfoundation.org).

*Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

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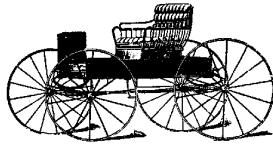
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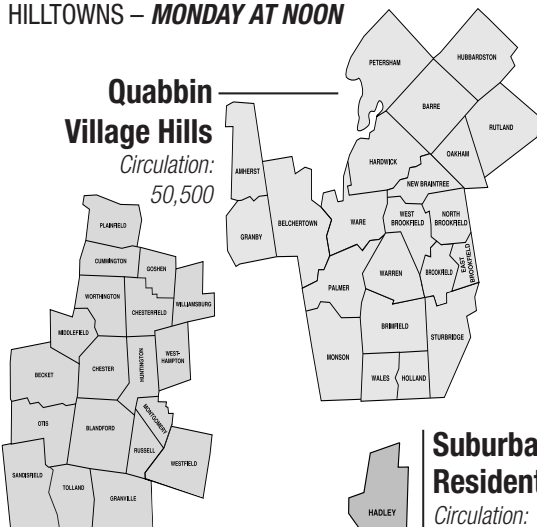
CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover ☐ Cash ☐ Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
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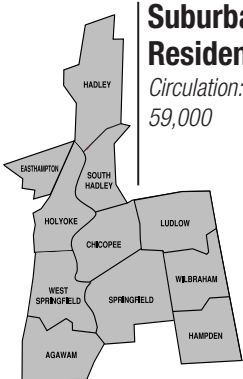
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Buy the Quabbin Village Hills or  
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Add \$10 for a second Zone  
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### Suburban Residential

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59,000



First ZONE base price \_\_\_\_\_ Includes additional words  
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Add a third ZONE **\$5.00** Run my ad in the following ZONE(s):  
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x Number of Weeks \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Suburban  
TOTAL Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Hilltowns

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## DEADLINES

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HILLTOWNS  
MONDAY AT NOON

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**RATHBONE PRECISION METALS, INC.** Manufacturer of metal shapes has a full-time opportunity for a Manufacturing Tool Designer. Responsibilities include design and draft of cold forming tools using CAD software and producing tool paths for wire EDM machines using CAM software while assisting/supporting manufacturing processes. Candidates should demonstrate a good work ethic, be dependable, have good judgment and be a team player. Candidates must have an Associate's degree in Engineering with proficient reading, writing, and math skills, excellent communication skills and be able to pay close attention to detail. Based on experience we offer competitive compensation and a comprehensive benefits package. Visit [www.rathboneprofiles.com](http://www.rathboneprofiles.com) for employment applications and submit online, via email to **linda.dias@rathbone-profiles.com** or mail to **1241 Park Street, Palmer, MA 01069**. Rathbone is proud to be an equal opportunity workplace and is an affirmative action employer.

**THE HAMPDEN POLICE DEPARTMENT** is now accepting applications for an open police officer position. The deadline to apply is May 14, 2021. Please visit **www.hampden-police.com** for more information.

## HELP WANTED

**THE TOWN OF LUDLOW** is accepting applications for temporary, seasonal, maintenance positions in the Dept. of Public Works. Hours may vary week to week. The rate of pay is \$13.50 per hour. Applications are available on line at our website or at our walk-up window at **198 Sportsman's Road, Ludlow** from 9:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.. Applications will be accepted until May 12, 2021

**TRUCK DRIVER FT** - Class A CDL - Bulk Tank - Tri Axle - Dump Trailer - Experience Required. **RB Enterprises, Ludlow (413) 583-8393**

**WAS BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION** Is now taking applications for the following positions: Skilled Laborer - Underground utility construction. Truck Driver/Laborer - required to perform both. Must be able to pass a background check, DOT physical and drug/alcohol testing. Applications accepted between 9:00am-2:00pm M-F @ **2378 Boston Road, Wilbraham, MA**. Paid major holidays, vacation, medical insurance after 90 days and SIMPLE IRA offered.

## REAL ESTATE

### VACATION RENTALS

**WARM WEATHER IS** Year Round In Aruba. The water is safe, and the dining is fantastic. Walk out to the beach. 3-Bedroom weeks available. Sleeps 8. Email: **carolaction@aol.com** for more information.

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Find archives of this local newspaper at **www.newspapers.turley.com**

## REAL ESTATE

### CONDOS FOR SALE

**GARDEN STYLE CONDO FOR SALE** in Doverbrook Estates, Chicopee. 2 beds, 1 bath, large livingroom, patio, \$174,900. See [forsalebyowner.com](http://forsalebyowner.com) or call Mike at **413-348-0417**

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**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

## FOR RENT



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## SESSION, from page 1

with Vega that this would ultimately help the town. He and his team are currently doing research on the restaurants in town, one's in the planning process, and one looking to come into town; after the research is collected a date will be set and invitations will be sent out to restaurant owners. Murphy said they are currently in the beginning stage, baby steps really, and that the event is probably two weeks away or more but it's going to happen.

Along with the different types of business leaders, Murphy wanted to hear from investors or possible investors to get an understanding of what they need in order to invest. They talked about the reasons why people don't want to invest, and some things that could be changed so more people are interested in investing. An example Murphy brought up was the streets and curb appeal, he'd like to clean up the streets and sidewalks, fix

what they need to and spruce up the curb appeal for businesses in town; and maintain it. Murphy emphasized that cleaning it once can easily be done but it needs to be maintained and kept up after it's initially done, and he believe the businesses and community are capable of doing that.

Murphy has looked into different ways to accomplish revamping the exterior of businesses, including some sort of repair program or using some funds that the city will receive from the American Rescue Plan if it applies to current guidelines. There are other plans for streets and infrastructure in the making, but the streets in the city and the areas focused on are already roughed up from constant truck traffic. These areas need to be repaired and Murphy is looking into it currently as its needed sooner rather than later, as there is a five year plan for the streets but he'd like to accelerate the process.

"As for those who attended they were very pleased and let us know that

they were glad we were listening, listening to the things that the city is doing well and things that aren't doing as well," Murphy said. "It was successful for us and successful for the businesses, one thing I wanted to make sure of was whether you're a new business or an old business, you can come into my office and talk with me about what needs to be done."

He added that while he wants to do everything in his power; there are some things that he will not be able to do and business leaders know and understand that. Murphy said he won't know if he can help you or not if you don't come to him and ask, he encourages business leaders to be in contact with him as he's focused on the wellbeing of the community and businesses that thrive on and support the community.

There have been needs that haven't been recognized because they haven't been asked, Murphy wants to have open communication between the town offices

and the businesses, asking what can he and the town offices do to help businesses succeed. In the spirit of this Murphy discussed having a group of businesses leaders meet with him on a monthly basis, this way they can talk about needs and what can be done to help businesses. This was brought up in the listening session and it's one of many tasks on Murphy's desk from that event. He suggested having people volunteer from different businesses no matter how old or new, and have a group of eight of 10 plus him to talk about what's needed and giving both criticism and appreciation for open communication.

Business leaders should look out for more information and possibly another listening session, while restaurant owners should look out for a restaurant listening session sometime in the future to speak to the mayor open what they need. People should keep an eye on the city website or call the City Hall if they have questions at 413-322-5510.

## SCRAP, from page 1

marijuana industry who share my vision for a revitalized downtown."

McGee also acknowledged that there is an election cycle happening and things are getting heated.

"That's understandable," said McGee. "And we're not in the chamber, we're on Zoom. Please, just respect each other. Debate the issues and move forward."

McGee said it is not up to the council to police each other. He asked coun-

cilors to have good discussion and work together.

Councilor Linda Vacon said she heard and heed his words.

"I agree with the points you made," said Vacon. "But there are other issues."

She referenced Lisi's ruling during the meeting that she called on Sullivan to leave the Zoom session and would not recognize him further during the meeting.

"I believe that was also out of order," said Vacon.

Lisi defended her actions, stating

campaign issues were being brought into the regular businesses of a council sub-committee meeting.

"So that is out of order, and that is why we would not recognize the disruption," said Lisi.

Sullivan opted not to make any comments after McGee addressed the issue.

Lisi and Sullivan have been among the more vocal candidates on the campaign trail so far during the early election season. Lisi and Sullivan are facing School Committee Vice Chair Devin Sheehan and William Glidden.

Lisi and Sullivan were both "disqualified" from serving as acting mayor because city councilors agreed giving either the post would give them an unfair advantage while campaigning for the office.

Home Rule Legislation was recently passed, which allowed Terence Murphy to become acting mayor. The new mayor will take office immediately after the election is completed. The four candidates will face off in a September primary that will narrow the field to two candidates.

# Velis-sponsored bills head to committee

BOSTON – State Senator John C. Velis (D-Westfield) announced that two bills he filed related to small businesses and economic relief have been referred to legislative committees. Senator Velis stated that these bills came about through conversations with small business owners and the Retailers Association of Massachusetts.

S.247, An Act to promote economic recovery for restaurants and bars was referred to the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, restaurants and bars that are licensed to sell beer and wine on premise have also been able to sell these beverages as take-out. Many establishments have

benefitted from this flexibility, which has allowed them to bring in additional income with take-out. This bill would make this ability permanent past the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

S.2005, An Act to establish a vendor’s collection allowance was referred to the Joint Committee on Revenue. The bill would create a vendor’s collection allowance in the Commonwealth, capped at \$750 per vendor, to compensate for the costs associated with sales tax. This would include all vendors collecting sales tax, including restaurants. The bill would not diminish the amount of taxes going to municipalities through the local options meals tax.

24 of the 45 sales tax states have vendor collection allowances, typi-

cally an amount equal to about 2% of the sales tax collected up to an annual dollar cap. Whether small business owners do the accounting themselves, hire a CPA to handle the monthly burden, or subscribe to a software program that eases the red tape, there is clearly a cost, and this legislation will help small businesses cover some of the costs of their monthly service to the Commonwealth.

“For more than a half a century the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has been in the minority of 45 sales tax states by not compensating small stores and restaurants for their work to collect, account for, and remit to the state billions of annual sales taxes,” said Jon Hurst, President of the Retailers

Association of Massachusetts. “This legislation will provide a small amount of compensation to our small businesses to keep their software up to date, and make the monthly remittance to the state.”

“This pandemic has hurt so many small businesses, restaurants, and bars. The financial impact has been felt all over and it is critical that we are helping the local establishments in our communities who have struggled,” said Velis. “These bills provide businesses with an option to retain additional revenue and properly compensate them for costs associated with the state sales tax. As we continue our economic recovery, we must focus on helping the small businesses we all love.”

# Machine Gun Kelly headed to The Big E on September 17

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Machine Gun Kelly’s “Tickets To My Downfall Tour” is coming to The Big E Arena, Friday, September 17 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets, which include general admission to The Big E, go on sale this Friday, April 30 at 10 a.m. Get yours at MachineGunKelly.com, TheBigE.com or The Big E Box Office.

The recording artist, award-winning global performer and most recognized rockstar of his generation, will be hitting live concert venues this fall

for the first time since the release of his No. 1 album “Tickets to My Downfall.” Fans can expect rocking performances of Platinum hits “bloody valentine,” “my ex’s best friend” and more.

Praise for the artist’s 5th studio album “Tickets to My Downfall” came from both fans and music critics, with Billboard lauding its “dazzlingly effective songs,” Vulture calling it “punk rock excellence,” and NME praising it as “brilliant.”

To kick-off 2021, MGK wowed

TV viewers from Times Square at Dick Clark’s New Year’s Rockin’ Eve followed by a legendary appearance on Saturday Night Live. ET had a glowing review for SNL, saying: “MGK’s second performance really showed the range of his style and substance, as he delivered a remarkably beautiful and emotional performance of his song “lonely,” and Rolling Stone praised the “raucous” performance.

Special guests on the tour include carolesdaughter, jxdn and

KennyHoopla.

Eastern States Exposition, home of The Big E, will enforce COVID-19 regulations required by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Town of West Springfield at the time of this engagement.

The Big E returns Sept. 17 to Oct. 3 in West Springfield. Stay tuned for more entertainment announcements and check out upcoming events on Eastern States Exposition’s grounds at TheBigE.com.



# Send Us Your Summer Event Information

**Turley Publications will print your summer calendar listings FREE OF CHARGE in our SUMMERFEST Supplement which publishes early June.**

**Deadline for submissions is May 4th.**

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